



**CYNGOR TREF  
YSTRADGYNLAIS  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Welfare Hall on  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present : Vice Chairman Adrian Williams Presiding**

**Councillors M Evans, R Lock, L Evans, M Gough, M Allen,  
C Nickels, E Evans, R Phillips, L Phillips, A Davies**

**169. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Thomas, R Millington, G Davies and T Davies.

**170. MINUTES**

Resolved that the minutes from the Councils Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**171. GORSEDD PARK LANDSCAPING OF SEATING AREA**

Further to Minute 152 a detailed report was given by the Clerk regarding a meeting between Quids In and Cllr Adrian Williams, Vice Chairman on the above matter. It was ascertained that Quids In was of the understanding that the additional work undertaken was part of the main project. The Town Council considered the report and although no formal authorisation for the work was given it was minded to approve and award the balance of

cost in the sum of £900 towards the total cost of £2000 for the additional landscaping work undertaken..

**172. ABERCRAVE WARD – EXPENDITURE ON VILLAGE PLANTING SCHEME.**

Further to Minute 155b, it was confirmed by Cllr A Williams that he had received an explanation from Quids In regarding the £600 expenditure incurred as an expense which had already been budgeted and agreed previously.

**173. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE/CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Further to Minute 157 confirmation was sought from the Council to determine who had been appointed to the Working Groups. It was resolved that the nominations to represent the four wards were as follows;  
Website Group – Cllrs R Phillips, R Millington, L Evans and T Davies.  
Christmas Lights Group – Cllrs M Donnelly, G Davies, M Gough, A. Williams.

**174. YSTRADGYNLAIS MINERS WELFARE HALL**

Further to Minute 158 the Clerk referred to an email sent on behalf of the Town Council to the Powys County Council stating its concerns regarding the funding cuts proposed for the Ystradgynlais Miners Welfare Hall. A response had been received from Cllr Aled Davies at Powys County Council the portfolio member on this matter stating that the Hall would receive a cut in financial funding for 2020/21 in the region of £8,500. The Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall had not as yet formally approached the Town Council on this matter. Position was noted.

**175. YSTRADGYNLAIS HERITAGE GROUP**

Further to Minute 159b, it was resolved to assist the above Group with funding for the Glantawe Electric Company Historical Display. However due to the severe weather damage caused to the Teddy Bear Bridge recently, this project had been suspended. Town Council to be updated as appropriate regarding the position with the bridge and proposed project.

**176. FLOODING – PANTYFFYNON ROAD**

Further to Minute 163, the Clerk reported on a meeting that had taken place with representatives from Powys County Council regarding the issue of flooding on occasions to properties in Pantyffynon Road. The Nant Gyrlais had previously overtopped the bank behind Llanfaes and flowed towards the Pantyffynon Road and properties concerned. As the Town Council are the landowners, the County Council were seeking permission to access the land and install flooding defence and drainage to alleviate the problem. A Welsh Assembly grant would be made available towards the works. Resolved to grant permission to access the Town Council land to undertake the drainage work required.

**177. SMALL GRANT APPLICATION ADVERTISEMENT**

Further to Minute 164, the Clerk updated the Council regarding the placement of the Advertisement locally. Position was noted and it was resolved to place copies in the Welfare Halls and Library in addition to the website.

**178. YSTRADGYNLAIS PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Further to Minute 165, it was agreed that the Ystradgynlais Town Council Ward Members arrange a meeting with the Ward County Councillors and the Secretary of the Ystradgynlais Public Conveniences Association to discuss any options available regarding the future funding of this local service provision.

**179. DOG FOULING**

Further to Minute 167e, a request to the County Council had been sent for information regarding the enforcement and possible action that can be taken regarding dog fouling. Their response was that any fouling on public highways should be reported to the Powys County Council Highways and Environment Departments and to the Wards respective County Councillors.

**180. PAYMENTS**

Resolved that the accounts as detailed be paid.

**181. MAESPICA ROAD – OVERHANGING BRANCHES**

An email had been received from a resident in Maespica Road, Cwmtwrch regarding overhanging branches from a tree on Town Council owned land. A quote for £1400 had been received in respect of the work needing to be carried out. It was resolved that plenary powers be given to the Cwmtwrch Ward to approve the felling of the tree and that discussions proceed with the Town Council approved contractor on the works required.

**182. GORSEDD PARK WAR MEMORIAL LIGHTS**

A budget provision of £2,000 had been decided in order to install lighting around the War Memorial at Gorsedd Park. It was resolved that a site meeting be organised with Cllrs A Davies and G Davies representing the Town Council and the two local public lighting contractors so that a plan for the lighting can be agreed and a total estimated cost for the installation.

**183. PENSION FUND**

An email had been received from the Powys county Council regarding the Pension Fund and its current valuation. The deficit figure had fallen from £73,381 at the last valuation to £42,447 at this latest one. However, that is not the same as an exit figure, as that has to take into account pensions in payment and future pension payments, so it will be higher. That would require the actuary to calculate however there would likely be fees involved in carrying out that work. Position was noted.

**184. TREE PLANTING – DIAMOND PARK**

Correspondence had been received from a member of the public concerned over tree planting in Diamond Park by Blodau and whether sufficient Impact Surveys had been carried out. It was resolved that the Clerk should arrange a site meeting between representatives from the Town Council and the complainant to further discuss the position.

**185. YNYSCEDWEN WARD – PERMISSION REQUEST TO CLEAR LAND – FOOTPATH 112**

A resident in the Ynyscedwen Ward had contacted Cllr T Davies asking for the Councils permission to clear a patch of the Councils ground and cut back an adjoining hedge adjacent to their property. Resolved that the resident be asked to forward a risk assessment statement and detailed specification of the work intended to be carried out, in order for the Town Council to give the matter further consideration. Cllr T Davies to contact the resident initially.

**186. NANT HELEN SURFACE MINE CONSULTATION PERIOD**

Celtic Energy had advised the Council that a consultation period presentation regarding the Groundworks planned for Nant Helen Surface Mine was taking place at the Ystradgynlais Library up to 16<sup>th</sup> March. Previous observations had been forwarded to the Company on this proposed development. Position noted.

**187. CCTV INSTALLATION REQUEST**

Carmarthenshire Police Force had been in contact to confirm that they would now contact the Welfare Hall Manager with a view to commence the work required to install the CCTV camera at the location agreed.

**188. BRYN HENLLYS SOLAR FARM – FULL PLANNING**

Notification had been received that the full planning for the Bryn Henllys Solar Farm would now be proceeding following expiry of the public consultation period. There is no reference in the planning application to BOAT C202 but Cllr L Evans was given an indication that the landowner may be open to discussion regarding installation of perimeter fencing to protect this area. Further information from the Cwmtwrch Ward be awaited on this matter.

### **189. GOROF CEMETERY POLICY**

The Council considered the content of the above policy document and resolved to adopt and agree the content in its entirety. It was further agreed that the policy should be sent to the Funeral Directors to issue to the owners of all new grave and memorial plots.

### **190. GOROF CEMETERY DRAFT TENDER**

The Council reviewed and considered the content of the above document and resolved to accept the detail and content contained relating to this tender documentation and the process to be followed. A discussion ensued regarding the distribution method and which contractors were going to be invited to tender. It was resolved to adopt the Councils Standing Orders that apply to this matter and that :-

- the Tender Invitation shall be issued to the four contractors on the Councils Approved Contractors List in accordance with Standing Order 63.
- Tenders shall be opened by the Responsible Financial Officer and reviewed with Members of Cwmtwrch Ward in accordance with Standing Order 65.
- a recommendation be made to the Town Council by the Cwmtwrch Ward as to their preferred contractor based on the detail and content contained in the completed returned tender documentation.

### **191. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The above consultative document had been circulated to the members for comment.

Resolved to note the position. And content of the consultative document.

## **192. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Resolved that the Town Councils observations on planning applications considered be forwarded to the Powys County Council.

## **193. MEMBERS/OFFICERS REPORTS**

- a) Cllr L Evans reported that issues had arisen with The River Twrch opposite the George IV Inn where there had been land slippage into the river. Position noted.
  
- b) Cllr C Nickels noted concerns on the poor state of the roads in the Ystradgynlais area due to blocked drains. Resolved to contact Highways to request Gulley Suckers be employed.
  
- c) Cllr M Gough drew the Councils attention to the current health concerns with Corona Virus and the lack of Hand Sanitiser available which has impacted on the local charity CATCH. Resolved to note the position.
  
- d) Cllr L Phillips also had concerns regarding the Corona Virus and whether any guidelines were in place for the Town Council on a local scale if it was found within the area. No specific guidance had been issued at the time other than the general guidance of self-isolation where appropriate and stringent sanitation advised by the Government. Position noted.
  
- e) Cllr R Phillips advised the Council that Buskergynlais would be taking place again this year as a one-day event and requested the Councils general support of this event. Council Members confirmed their full support to the event.
  
- f) Cllr E Evans updated the Council that all required maintenance of the children's Play Area within Abercrave Ward would be completed by the end of the month. Position noted

Meeting concluded at 8.35 p.m.